

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1922

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 1551

FOR S, S/S AND ARA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: SECVISIT: OFFICE SPACE/SLEEPING ACCOMMODATIONS

REF: STATE 25145

1. THE PRESSURE ON HOTEL SPACE IN THE CARACAS AREA DURING THE PERIOD OF THE SECRETARY'S VISIT WILL BE ENORMOUS AS A RESULT OF A NUMBER OF LOCAL EVENTS INCLUDING A LONG-SCHEDULED MAJOR FRENCH TECHNICAL FAIR. AN ADDITIONAL COMPLICATION HAS BEEN THE NECESSITY INHERENT WITHIN THE SECRETARY'S SCHEDULE OF SPLITTING HIS STAY BETWEEN CARACAS (WHERE THE MAJOR PORTION OF HIS OFFICIAL PROGRAM WILL OCCUR) AND MACUTO (WHERE SYMPOSIUM II IS MEETING). TAKING THESE FACTORS INTO ACCOUNT, THE EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT WE HAVE MET THE REQUIREMENTS FOR OFFICE SPACE/SLEEPING ACCOMMODATIONS WITH THE INEVITABLE NUMBER OF COMPROMISES.

2. WE ARE HOLDING SPACE AT THE HOTEL CARACAS HILTON FOR FEBRUARY 16 THROUGH PART OF THE 17TH. THIS INCLUDES THE PRESIDENTIAL SUITE, WHICH IS RELATIVELY SMALL BUT WELL WITHIN THE SPECIFICATIONS MENTIONED IN REFTTEL. THE SECRETARY'S SUITE IS AT THE END OF A CORRIDOR ON THE 15TH FLOOR. FOR THE SPECIAL ASSISTANTS WE HAVE RESERVED AN ADJOINING SUITE WHICH HAS TWO BEDROOMS. THIS SUITE
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CONTAINS A SITTING ROOM WHICH IS SUITABLE EITHER AS

A HOLDING ROOM OR USSS COMMAND POST. THE SPECIAL ASSISTANTS' OFFICE POSES SPACE PROBLEMS SINCE NO OTHER SUITES WERE AVAILABLE. HOWEVER, WE HAVE BEEN OFFERED ON THE SAME FLOOR A LARGE AREA USUALLY USED AS A NIGHT CLUB AND LOUNGE, WHICH IS ON THE OPPOSITE END OF THE CORRIDOR FROM THE SECRETARY'S SUITE AND APPROXIMATELY 150 FT. FROM THE SUITE AREA. THERE IS SUFFICIENT SPACE FOR ANY NUMBER OF OFFICES, HOLDING ROOMS AND CONTROL POSTS. OTHER OFFICE SPACE REQUIREMENTS FOR SUPPORT OFFICES WERE MET BY RESERVING CONFERENCE ROOMS ON THE FIRST FLOOR OF THE HOTEL. 39 SINGLES FOR SLEEPING QUARTERS HAVE BEEN RESERVED.

3. WE ARE ALSO HOLDING SPACE AT THE MACUTO-SHERATON FROM FEBRUARY 17 UNTIL THE MORNING OF FEBRUARY 18. THIS INCLUDES THE PRESIDENTIAL SUITE ON THE 7TH FLOOR WHICH IS GRANDIOSE BY ALMOST ANY STANDARD. NBSPECIAL ASSISTANTS COULD EITHER OCCUPY BEDROOMS WITHIN THE SUITE WHICH WOULD PLACE THEM ACROSS THE HALL FROM THE SECRETARY'S BEDROOM OR THEY COULD OCCUPY ROOMS ADJACENT TO THE ENTRANCE TO THE SUITE WHICH HAS THE INCONVENIENCE OF BEING SOME DISTANCE FROM THE SECRETARY'S BEDROOM. AMPLE SPACE IS AVAILABLE FOR A HOLDING ROOM, USSS COMMAND POST AND FOR OFFICE SPACE CONTIGUOUS TO THE AREA. CONFERENCE ROOMS AT THE MEZZANINE LEVEL WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR OTHER SUPPORT OFFICES. 39 SINGLES HAVE BEEN RESERVED FOR SLEEPING QUARTERS.

4. IN BOTH HOTELS THIS IS THE MAXIMUM NUMBER OF ROOMS AVAILABLE. WE UNDERSTAND THAT ADVANCE PARTIES ARE NOT INCLUDED IN THE 39 ROOMS NOW RESERVED FOR MAIN PARTY. WHILE WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO HOUSE TDY COMMUNICATORS IN OTHER HOTELS, IT WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE TO FIND ADDITIONAL ROOMS FOR EITHER THE ADVANCE SECRET SERVICE OR THE ADVANCE S/S TEAMS IN THE HOTELS TO BE USED BY THE MAIN PARTY UNLESS MEMBERS OF THE MAIN PARTY ARE PREPARED TO DOUBLE UP. PLEASE ADVISE IMMEDIATELY IF THIS IS FEASIBLE OTHERWISE WE WILL BE FORCED TO HOUSE THE ADVANCE TEAMS AT OTHER HOTELS.

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